



House Appropriations (Special Session)
Rep. Delzer, Chairperson
Senate Bill 2345

Chairman Delzer and members of the House Appropriations Committee. For the record, Blake Crosby, Executive Director of the North Dakota League of Cities.

I am in support of HB 2345, amended as per 21.1123.02006, which includes language for an interim study of establishing a water project stabilization fund and also support the \$75M in water funding as requested.

During the current biennium the State experienced a precipitous drop in oil extraction taxes which support the Resources Trust Fund (RTF). This caused the State Water Commission (SWC) to hold off on funding submitted water proposals for a number of months, likely added to the cost of projects and delayed some projects to the next construction year.

The establishment of a water project stabilization fund, moving the RTF to a cash basis from one biennium to the next, would protect the RTF from revenue drops/shortfalls experienced this biennium. Knowing what is available in the RTF gives the SWC and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) the ability to create a better water development plan prior to each biennium.

Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to address flood control, water supply and economic development is a wise use of those funds and will help address the increased costs of supplies, materials, and labor we are now experiencing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have questions, please contact me at blake@ndlc.org.